



# 152<sup>nd</sup> MAINTENANCE COMPANY DEPLOYMENT NEWS

Pride In AMERICA Begins with ME! 152d Maintenance Company, Camp Liberty Iraq



## Commander's Corner

152 Family and Friends- First and foremost, the 152 soldiers and all our family members wish to extend the deepest condolences and thoughts to all the members of the Louisiana Army National Guard's 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team. After a year long deployment to Baghdad, Iraq, they return home to face tremendous loss in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Many have lost homes and family treasures, and will be a lifetime recovering from this terrible disaster. On behalf of the 152d Maintenance Company from the Maine, Iowa and Washington National Guard, our prayers are with the during this time of need.

As the unit begins the second half of its deployment, we find ourselves attached to the First Brigade, Tenth Mountain Division Brigade Support Battalion. This active duty brigade, which replaces the 256<sup>th</sup> BCT, is based in Fort Drum, New York, and is no stranger to deployment or the Global War on Terrorism. It is clearly apparent that the 1/10<sup>th</sup> BSB is made up of professional, seasoned soldiers who are all about getting the job done to the highest standards. With the work ethic and pride already inherent to the 152, our attachment to them appears to be a good match and will serve both organizations well through the remainder of our time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

As a parent and former teacher, I know the importance of education and family involvement in your local school systems. Even though your military spouse is not physically present to be part of your children's school experience, s/he is still a vital part of your children's support system. Share our deployed email addresses with your children's teachers, and make sure that your spouse has the teacher's contact information. Also, make sure you communicate positively with the school's administration, especially the guidance department, to make the school staff aware of the length of deployment and any sensitive issues that the school needs to be aware of to fully support your children. Positive and constant communication will allow this to be a productive and learning school year.

On a final safety note, winter will be upon the home families soon, so start making plans for a safe and comfortable season. Get your furnace and/or chimney inspected and cleaned. Make sure your automobiles are serviced and equipped with the proper tires for your climate. Change the batteries and test all your smoke detectors. By taking these small and easy preventative measures, you can mitigate risk now before a problem occurs later. As usual, thank you for the continued support. We have rounded the corner in the deployment marathon, and will be home before you know it!

Congratulation to the Company NCO and Soldier of the Months: SPC Bottem and SGT Whitmore.

Take Care,  
CPT Moody

Family Support Group Points of Contact:

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10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Div Web sight [WWW.1DCT.FortDrum.Army.FRG.org](http://WWW.1DCT.FortDrum.Army.FRG.org)



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## **News from the Top Wrench**

We are in September and all parents are jumping for joy because in a lot of places back home the kids are going back to school. Finally you have the T.V. remote control, food left in the refrigerator, the car, and most important peace and quiet.

The weather is cooling down. By the time that you get this newsletter, we will be working on our sixth month in country. All the soldiers that wanted to have internet in their rooms have it and enjoy it to the fullest. Great credit to SFC Carrier and SFC Bellegarde as they set most of the internet service up.

Those that have gone home on leave really enjoyed the time with love ones. They came back ready to handle the rest of the tour. The soldiers that have not gone home yet are anxiously waiting their richly deserved leave.

Our missions haven't changed yet. If there is one thing I have learned about this deployment is that every day is different.

To conclude, there are many ups and downs and we had to concentrate on the positives despite the negatives we received during this deployment. The 152 has been positive regardless of what has been thrown our way. We stick with our motto of Get Her Done!

When you make a mistake, don't look back at it long. Take the reason of the thing into your mind and then look forward. Mistakes are lessons of wisdom. The past cannot be changed. The future is yet in your power.

Congratulations to the Soldier and NCO of the Month...

SGT Whitmore

SPC Bottom

1SG Daniel M Grenier  
Camp Liberty, Iraq  
Always Professional

## **From the desk of the Executive Officer**

My first month as the XO has been great. The 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade has now departed country and we find ourselves working for a new master. The 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division; all Soldiers in the 1/10<sup>th</sup> are active duty and have not worked with the National Guard before. This provides us a unique opportunity to get off on the right foot and set a positive example as representatives of the National Guard.

The 1/10<sup>th</sup> seem to be interested in using our maintenance capabilities to the greatest extent possible. As a result we have over doubled the amount of Soldiers on maintenance missions as of September 9<sup>th</sup> 2005. We have also been able to add an additional five Soldiers to work in their warehouse full-time. This is very good news for the 152.



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I want all the friends and family to know how much we truly appreciate your support to the Soldiers of the 152<sup>nd</sup>. When Soldiers know that it is O.K. at home; it is much easier to focus on the missions they have to do every day. You may not wear the uniform, but you are an essential part of the team.

1LT Jines

## HEADQUARTERS

Here we are again, another month down. It is just about October and we are nearing the “Half-Way” point of our tour here in Iraq. This is your friendly neighborhood Communications God, Sgt Putnam, writing the quips and happenings of Headquarters Platoon. I would like to give a shout out to the families and soldiers from Washington County. Us Down-Easta’s are usually in the background and don’t get much of the limelight. To my family in Eastport I’d like to say “I love you and miss you very much!”

Our new masters, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain have taken over where the 256<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade left off. Where that is, is right here at Camp Liberty Baghdad, Iraq. So the rumors of the 152<sup>nd</sup> going to Kuwait or going home early were just that, rumors. However, rumor has it we may actually have a maintenance mission after all. Most of Headquarters Platoon is working 12 hour days with maybe one day a week off. The weather here is getting cooler in the evenings as the daylight gets shorter and shorter. The other day it was only 105 deg instead of the 115+ deg that we had gotten used to. The chow is still edible however it still does not compare to a home cooked meal, like seafood chowdah or a boiled dinnah...YUMM!

The mail is still coming by the bagful and the care packages are coming by the truckload. If we see someone smiling more than usual he/she has more than likely received a care package, so keep them coming. There are more soldiers here with internet in their rooms so they can stay in contact with loved ones back home. We finally have a DSN phone in our TOC (Tactical Operations Center), thanks to the awesome commo gurus from 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain.

## AUTO 1

Greetings from Camp Liberty,

Hello family members and significant others. It’s hard to believe it is October already, come the 14<sup>th</sup> Auto Platoon will have been here for 6 months and we will be on the down hill side of our deployment. All is well here in Iraq, it has cooled off considerably now and the temperatures aren’t bad at all anymore, it only gets up to around 105 these days. In the early morning it is cool enough now that some people actually wear long sleeve shirts.

Since last news letter we now have a new unit which we fall under. The 256 BCT has moved out and headed back to Louisiana to help out with the floods in New Orleans. The 1/10 BCT (1<sup>st</sup> Brigade 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Div.) from Ft. Drum is their replacement and we now fall under them. So far the transition has gone pretty well and we are currently starting to do missions for the new boys in town. One good thing is that we are actually starting to do more maintenance than we have in the past. SFC Gray and CW2 Rideout head up that mission while SSG Devoe and I head up the Force Protection Mission so we are all extremely busy these days and all the troops in Auto are doing a great job.

I am proud to announce that we have had 2 more well deserved promotions in the platoon. SGT Larry McManus has been promoted to SSG/E-6 and PFC Stacy Salisbury was promoted to SPC/E-4 a big congrats to these 2 individuals. I know SSG McManus has waited a long time for this day to come. PFC Matt Fowle and SPC Larry Mitchell received brigade coins from CSM Mayes (256 BCT CSM) just before the 256 BCT left Iraq. They received these coins for the excellent job they have done on the Force Protection team for the past few months. Also SGT George Whitmore was



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selected as NCO of the month for August and SPC Salisbury was runner up for soldier of the month. Thank you to all these soldiers for a job well done.

Auto Platoon would like to thank the family program for the packages that have been sent to us over here. It's nice to get a care package of useful things from back in Maine. I would like to let the family members know that the gate collection that Bath Iron Works has taken for the 152<sup>nd</sup> has swollen to over \$11,000 to date so hats off to my fellow employees down there in Bath. All the soldiers in Auto 1 are doing fine and coping with this deployment real well and cant wait to get back to Maine in April. We only have one soldier taking leave in Oct. and that will be SSG Dale Breton I am sure he will enjoy this time off with his family back in Maine. Now some messages from the troops to some of you folks back home:

**Happy B-Day (10/23) and Happy Anniversary (10/30) to my wife Jane from SFC Richard Dumas. Augusta, Me.**

**Happy B-Day (10/30) to my son Logan from SFC Ed Campbell. Pittston, Me. ( Have a cold one for me!!)**

**Happy B-Day 10/6 to my dad from SGT George Whitmore. Caribou, Me.**

Our next newsletter will be out the first week of Oct. So long for now.

SFC Ed Campbell

## Auto 2

Has another month gone by? Time is flying. Let's hope it continues to do so.

Thank you to the Family Readiness Group for the individual packages. The boxes are much appreciated; it lets us know we are not forgotten.

The temperature is finally starting to drop. It did not happen gradually, like in Washington. One day we woke up and it was noticeably 5-10 degrees cooler. We just hope it stays that way! It makes our jobs bearable. Exercising was difficult in the heat. Most of us still managed to hit the gym or run, but it's not so enjoyable at 115 degrees. Many of you may be surprised when we return; maybe you won't recognize some of us! Many of us have dropped a few pounds, although some may have put on a few. The food here is not bad, with many choices ranging from burgers and fries to lobster, steak and shrimp on some days. We even have Baskin Robbins Ice Cream, Pizza Hut, Seattle's Best, Subway, Burger King and Popeye's. If one is not careful the weight could creep up. Nothing here compares to the thought of sitting down to my first Outback Steak when I return, or a pint of Ben and Jerry's! And I mean the whole pint.

TV Shows on DVD are very popular here. At the moment, SPC Williams and I are hooked on Sopranos. Sometimes we watch 3 or 4 episodes in a row, keeping us up until wee hours of the morning because we are addicted. We've already finished every episode made of Sex in the City, Alias, and Six Feet Under. There are more things than TV however to pass time. SPC Williams and I are also learning how to play the guitar. I just received my guitar in the mail several days ago. I love it. It seems a lot of us here are picking up little things to learn and pass time that we wouldn't normally have time for in "Real Life". Anything to keep our minds off where we would rather be...HOME.

Though time is passing it seems a lot of us are getting tired. You might hear differences in some of our voices from when we first got here. We do know the hardships all of you must face at home without us, please know this does not go un-noticed. We want to thank you for your support and know we think of you more often than we admit. We long for the day our family and friends gather together to welcome us home. Thank you again for maintaining life as we know it back home while we are here doing our part in protecting it. We could not do this without you.



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**P.S. Thank you Mrs. McLaughlin for the homemade cookies you sent, they were the best cookies we have ever eaten!**

SEPT. 10<sup>TH</sup> 2005

SGT. Jaime Mitchell  
SPC. Alisha Williams  
951<sup>st</sup> Maint. CO. Washington ST.  
Attached to the 152<sup>nd</sup> Maint. Co. Maine

## **Track Platoon**

Well, it would be easy to say that it's been just another month in Iraq, but that would be untrue. Many things have changed, some stayed the same and lots of things happened since mid-August. Here are just a few:

Our additional soldiers from Maine arrived in mid-August and what a pleasant sight as all 21 of them began showing up for our various missions. The additional manpower gave a much needed relief in the form of fewer hours worked each week. Also in mid-August units from the 1-10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (New York) started continued to arrive to relieve the outgoing 256 BCT. These guys are easily identified because they are wearing the new Army uniform gray computerized cammo). We in the 152d Maint Co. are told that we will be issued the new uniforms also however I think most of us have been quit proud of the desert tan DCU's that we are currently wearing and would rather not have to change. But oh well – what are we to do.

Sometime around the end of August or beginning of September we became glued to the TV in the Dining Hall watching the horror of Hurricane Katrina unveil. Because most of the soldiers from the 256<sup>th</sup> BCT are from Louisiana there was a heightened level of concern here for what was happening back home. Many of these soldiers are now home to their displaced families, destroyed homes, and I would wager to say even a few missing family members. The stories of woe from these soldiers abound and we do our best to lend an open ear and wish them well as they leave this war-torn place to be with their families or help rebuild their hometowns.

On a lighter note some of us got to watch one of our favorite rivalries. The ISU Cyclone and the Iowa Hawkeye football game. It was broadcasted over the armed forces network here at Camp Tiger land and was a great way for some of us to experience a touch of home. (Go Cyclones!).

Also in mid-September came additional maintenance missions for the 152<sup>nd</sup>. Finally more of us will get the chance to do what we were all trained to do, work on vehicles! There is now a Track vehicle mission, a Quick Service Mission, Construction mission, and a Warehouse mission. While many of us are still working Force Protection type missions for now we hope that we all get a chance to rotate thru and turn a wrench or two. We will keep our fingers crossed.

As always thanks for your support from back home. I truly believe that it is the spouses and families at home who are the real HEROES because it is they, who manage all aspects of life that the soldiers left behind as well as deal with all the uncertainty of War. For that we THANK YOU!!

God Bless  
SSG Eric Weber

## **Armament Platoon**

Hello! I am glad to finally be here and serving as the Armament Platoon leader. The past two months have gone very fast and I am finally adjusted to things here at Camp Liberty. I would like to thank everyone for their continued support





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over the past five months and the two months since I arrived. We have received a number of letters and care packages that have been a big morale boost for the soldiers. It has been simply overwhelming and it really reaffirms the support that we have from all of our family, friends, and loved ones back home.

September has come and gone bringing us a much needed relief from the heat. Night temperatures have dropped into the seventies while the temperature during the day is in the low hundreds. As we fall under new management, it appears that the promise of maintenance has become a reality. Whatever the future holds, we will accept each challenge and execute it to the best of our abilities.

I would like to take the time to congratulate the families of both Specialist Jeremy Thede and Specialist Rodney Kruse. SPC Kruse and his wife Laura had a son Connor Jon Kruse on April 17, 2005. SPC Kruse was participating in a field exercise with the company when he found out the great news. SPC Thede and his wife Michelle are the proud parents of a healthy baby girl. Abyranna Kay Thede was born on August 1, 2005. Her father was able to be at the hospital to see his newborn daughter and spend some time with his family while on leave.

We were also recently visited by BG Zirkelbach and CSM Norris from Iowa who came to visit both Track and Armament Platoon. They met the command of the 152 and were given a tour of our Area of Operation (AO). In a town hall type luncheon 12 of our soldiers were recognized for their hard work by receiving a coin. Soldiers recognized were as follows:

CSM coins- SGT Beisell, SPC Boyington, SSG Weber J., SSG Colvin, and SSG Wieth

General coins- SSG Tuttle, SPC Oxford, and SPC Coughlin.

BDE CSM coins- SGT Feickert and Kruse.

1SG Coins- SSG Hueginin and SPC Kincaid.

We appreciate all of our soldiers for their hard work and dedication!

Outstanding NCO and Soldier for the month of September for Armament:

SGT Beisell: SGT Beisell's can do attitude and great teamwork has made him an instrumental part of the mission. SGT Biesell does an excellent job paying attention to detail and ensuring that each and every task he carries out is completed to the best of his ability. He regularly comes in during his free time to help the Commander of the Relief (COR) during the night shift. This performance demonstrates his dedication to the United States Army, his unit, and the Army value of Selfless-service.

SPC Larson- SPC Larson is a consistent role model for other soldiers on our mission. He is always very professional and keeps a positive attitude even in adverse conditions. SPC Larson is always very detailed with information he relays over the radio and he has been instrumental in the safekeeping of U.S equipment and personnel.

Respectfully submitted,  
2LT Nick Gin her

"Comments from the Chief"



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We are in the process of “adjusting fire” as we fall under a new higher command. The 256<sup>th</sup> BCT have all but gone and the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain has hit the ground running. Though there is still a need for a number of our platoon to support the Force protection requirements there is also a new found need for the special skills we have to offer.

The Armament section has had to relocate our equipment in order to be collocated with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Armament section. This is a bit of a project but has been completed and the end result is an “Armament Maintenance Center” that can handle anything that comes our way. We have some of the best troops and equipment the military has to offer.

We can provide quality support with three different shops that are setup to meet multiple requirements. The troops are not only working in Armament but they are working in their specific area of expertise. This has provided quite a boost in morale for the troops now working in the shop. As we complete the transition it is our intention to establish a rotational cycle that will allow all of the troops the opportunity to get some hands on experience in what has to be the best Armament Maintenance Center in the region (I might be a little biased).

Chief Gillette  
152 Maintenance Company  
Armament Technician



Hello to all Wolf Pack and Wolf Pack family members back home!

I think we will start each monthly news letter the same way, “Another month down and one month closer to our return!” The day time temperature is still around the 115 mark but the night time temperature has fallen some and has been down in the 80’s. Still no rain and it sure would be nice to see some, I never thought I would say that. At this point I think we would all welcome it and it would help with all the dust.

This past month Sgt Mark Fairfield, SFC Ron Spencer and myself all made a safe return from our 15 days of leave and for those of you who may not already know I got married while I was home and Raylene and myself are looking forward to a wonderful and fulfilling future together. We have her son Sgt Levi Orff to thank for getting us together. We currently have SSG Mark Fairfield, Sgt Frank Nile and SPC Josh Gallant scheduled to go on leave during the month of September. The travel time home and back for the 15 days of leave is hectic but is very well worth the hassle, the break is well deserved and needed.

We miss you and love you all!!!  
SFC StMichel  
Wolf Pack

**Children (Lany (girl), and Mohamed(boy)), Father (Mr. Akmed) received gifts from the 152<sup>nd</sup> Guard Tower. (Items: Candy, Coloring books, and toothbrushes. All the essentials every child need.**